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August 27, 2013

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Smarter Balanced Expands Field Test Availability

OLYMPIA, Wash.— The [Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium](http://www.smarterbalanced.org) (Smarter Balanced) confirmed today that its member states will have the option of administering Field Tests of the next-generation assessments to significantly larger numbers of students this school year than required to ready the exams for full-scale use in 2014-15.

"The primary purpose of this year's Field Test is to gauge the validity and reliability of these next-generation assessments by administering them to a representative sample of students, but we know many states are eager to go beyond that," said Joe Willhoft, Ph.D., executive director of Smarter Balanced. "We're confident our system can meet their needs."

The Consortium's Field Test plans call for about ten percent of member state students participating in English language arts/literacy and another ten percent in mathematics, allowing testing experts to evaluate the fairness and stability of individual items and performance tasks prior to full administration of the new assessments in the 2014-15 school year.

"Expanding the availability of the Field Test will help states judge the readiness of their schools to provide the technology and complete the staff development required to successfully implement the new assessments," Willhoft said.

The announcement follows the success of pilot testing during the spring and the release of online Practice Tests earlier this year.

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About Smarter Balanced

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium brings together states to create a common, innovative assessment system for mathematics and English language arts/literacy that is aligned with the Common Core State Standards and helps prepare students for college and careers. The Consortium involves educators, researchers, policymakers, and community groups in a transparent and consensus-driven process to help all students thrive in a knowledge-driven global economy. The Consortium's projects are funded through a four-year, \$175 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, comprising 99 percent of activity resources, with the remaining support provided through generous contributions of charitable foundations. Membership is open to any interested U.S. state. For more information, please visit www.smarterbalanced.org.